Article in the Mahati regarding the Central Bank.

676. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether an article under the caption "ഭരണഭദ്രതയും ബാങ്കും" in the Mahati dated 12th Kumbham 1104 has been brought to their notice;

(2) what action did the Government take regarding the allegation that no meeting of the Central Bank was announced in spite of the Registrar requesting the bank authorities to hold one in pursuance of the order of the Diwan;

(3) have the Government held any enquiry regarding the other allegations in the article; (4) if so, with what result, and if not, whether they would hold an enquiry now?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(1) Yes.

(2) None.

(3) and (4) An enquiry is being held.

Price and yield of land in Chittur.

677. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Will the Grvernment be pleased to state: —

(a) the market price of an acre of cultivated land of average fertility in the Chittur Taluk (both in the irrigated and unirrigated parts);

(b) what the average yield per acre of such lands and what the assessments?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Vide statement appended. (*Appendix IX.*)

Family pensioners in the State.

678. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—(a) Why one Mr. Balaji Rao's family in Chittur is given a pension in perpetuity and who the recipient of the same at present;

(b) how many such families are there in and outside Cochin receiving perpetual pension from the Darbar and the total amount spent on them every year;

(c) when was the oldest of them begun and to whom;

(d) whether the recipients have absolute property over them; i. e., whether they have unrestricted powers of alienation;

(e) if the answer to clause (d) be in the negative, under what legal category have they been placed?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(a) The origin of the grant is not clear as it is lost in obscurity. The grant is a purely personal one. The pension represents the commuted value of 360 *paras* of paddy allowed to the original assignee and noted as a'ease of *Vakaneekkipirivuchilavu* in the pre-settlement Revenue Accounts.

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